REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on November 16, 2009.

No claims are amended, canceled, or added. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-16 remain pending in this application.

The Rejection of Claims Under § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts that the claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that "the limitation 'the user input identifying: ... a first identifier ... and ... a second identifier' is new matter" and that "[i]t does not appear from the specification that the user input identifies the first and second identifier."

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant notes that the first and second identifiers are associated with respective fields for which permissions (i.e., exclusion from an activity involving the field for which the identifier is associated) are set within the claim by the received input. Support for the identifiers can be found, for example, on page 11, lines 16-30, such as where the "[a]uthorizations 1005 include user identifications 1010 and activity identifications 1015." Further, page 1, line 26 – page 2, line 6 provides how the user input for tailoring the object is received. Further support can be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

Thus, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims Under § 103

Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falkenhainer et al., U.S. 5,930,801 ("Falkenhainer"), in view of Owens et al., U.S. 6,047,284 ("Owens"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With regard to independent claim 1, the Office Action asserts Falkenhainer for purposes of showing receipt of the user input of first and second fields to be included in the tailored object

class definition. In particular, the Office Action points to Table 1 in col. 6, lines 15-45 and col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 9. Table 1 provides an example of metadata including permissions data that may be associated with an object and the citation to col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 9 provides description of editing permissions of the object. Owens is provided for purposes of showing the "to be included in the tailored object class definition" portions of the claim.

Although permissions data is pointed out by the Office Action in Falkenhainer, it appears more appropriate when referring to the first and second fields to be included in a tailored object class definition to point to the data the object is intended to manage, such as the underlying file data of an object. For example, such underlying data in Falkenhainer is described at col. 2, lines 18-22 which provides that, "An object database is provided, the object database including therein an objected associated with each file in the system...." As can be seen from this portion of Falkenhainer, an object represents a single file allegedly corresponding to a field in the context of Applicant's claim 1. Thus, for input to be received with regard to the first of second fields of Applicant's independent claim 1, Falkenhainer must receive input with regard to two files and thus two objects. However, Applicant's claim 1 is with regard to tailoring a single object class definition and not two. Thus, the citation to the permission data of Table 1 and col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 9 Falkenhainer does not align with how Applicant has directed claim 1. The granularity to which Applicant has drawn claim 1 is at the field level, such as data items, while Falkenhainer is directed at the file level, which presumably includes multiple data items. Applicant respectfully submits that for Falkenhainer to be read on "receiving user input identifying: … a first field … (and) a second field…" Falkenhainer would require defining two object class definitions. Defining two object class definitions is contrary to the language claim 1 which provides a user with options for "tailoring an (meaning one) object class definition." Further, this requirement of Falkenhainer to define two object classes defeats the efficiencies provided for in claim 1 which provides for a single object class definition. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Falkenhainer fails to teach or suggest the elements for which it is provided and further teaches away from independent claim 1 by defeating the efficiencies provided for in the claim.

Owens is not asserted for, nor does it cure these deficiencies of Falkenhainer. Owens is further provided for showing that the first and second fields be included in the tailored object

class definition. The Office Action cites col. 6, lines 1-5 as provided such a teaching. Review of this portion of Owens fails to cure the deficiencies of Falkenhainer and further fails to teach that the first and second fields be included in the object class definition.

Continuing with the rejection of claim 1, the Office Action further cites Table 1 of Falkenhainer along with FIG. 2 for purposes of showing "a first (second) user or group of users and a first (second) identifier associated with the first (second) field to identify that the first (second) user or group of user is to be excluded from a first (second) activity that involves the first (second) field." However, Table 1 again describes what permissions are associated with an object. The permission related items in Table 1 are two items –Readers and Writers. The descriptions of readers and writers are essentially identical except for the words read and write. The descriptions thus provide, "A list of handles to user and/or group objects that have been granted read (write) access to this object." Note that access is described with regard to the object. Thus, regardless of the number of data items or fields or documents, a user and/or group object is granted access to the whole object of the object or no part of the object. This is in contrast to the explicit language of claim 1 where a first user is "excluded from a first activity that involves the first field" and a second user is "excluded from a second activity that involves the second field." As claimed, this is a setting for which user input is received with particularity regarding specific data fields within the object and also with regard to a specific activities involving the specific data fields. The cited portions of Falkenhainer, and elsewhere, fail to describe receiving user input, a data structure capable of holding such received user input, or functionality that could utilize such user input that would allow for permissions data to be specified at a field level granularity or with regard to and differing between two fields for the same user as allowed for in the explicit language of independent claim 1. Absent such description, and therefore a teaching or suggestion, it is not possible for Falkenhainer to either "tailor and store object class definition" which relies on receiving such user input or to "instantiate an object from the tailored object class definition" as claimed. Owens is not provided nor asserted for these purposes. Applicant is further unable to locate such a teaching or suggestion in Owens where permissions data is specified at the user, field, and activity granularity as claimed.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the asserted combination of Falkenhainer and Owens fails to teach or suggest all the elements of independent claim 1. Applicant further submits, as discussed above, that if Falkenhainer were to be implemented as asserted in the Office Action to receive user input identifying both the first and second fields to be included in a tailored object class definition, two objects of Falkenhainer would need to be defined. Defining two object would defeat the efficiencies provided for by the language of claim 1 in allowing for a single object class definition and thus, teaches away from the claim.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 3-12 and 14-16 which depend therefrom are patentable over the asserted combination of Falkenhainer and Owens. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3-12, and 14-16 are respectfully requested.
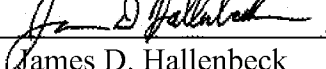
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-12, and 14-16 are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (612) 373-6938 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this ___16th___ day of February, 2010.

___Chris Bartl___   _____
Name   Signature